

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-7 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended herein.

Initially, Applicant requests that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority document submitted with the Submission of Priority Document filed September 14, 2004.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. Claims 1, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of Claim 2 and Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, independent Claims 1 and 5 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are requested.

Claims 1 and 5 were objected to for minor informalities. In response, Claims 1 and 5 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims are also requested.

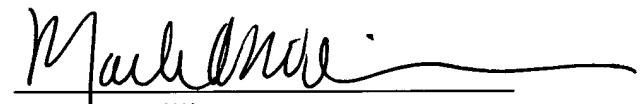
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 5. Dependent Claims 3, 4, 6

and 7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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